

State Park Emergency Repairs**FY2003 Request: \$250,000**
Reference No: 6843**AP/AL:** Appropriation
Category: Health/Safety
Location: Statewide
Election District: Statewide
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2004**Project Type:** Deferred Maintenance**Contact:** Jim Stratton
Contact Phone: (907)269-8700**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Alaskans comprise 80% of the almost 4 million annual visits to the Alaska State Park system. Many of the state parks are old and broken (\$42 million in identified deferred maintenance needs) and present potential health and safety hazards to visitors. The project will fund emergency repairs to park units to protect visitor health and safety. Projects will upgrade or replace the basic facilities at parks including outhouses, drinking water systems, safe access roads & trails, safe shelter from harsh weather, and safe camping sites.

Funding:

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	Total
Gen Fund	\$250,000	\$350,000	\$450,000	\$550,000	\$650,000	\$750,000	\$3,000,000
Total:	\$250,000	\$350,000	\$450,000	\$550,000	\$650,000	\$750,000	\$3,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:SLA 2001/CH61 - \$286,000
SLA 2000/CH135 - \$286,200
SLA 1999/CH2 - \$151,500
SLA 1998/CH139 - \$200,000

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The State Park infrastructure is broken. The longer we ignore the significant deferred maintenance needs of the state park system, the more expensive it will be to ultimately fix. In the meantime, the park system will lose visitors as they are disgusted with the disrepair in many parks (outhouses and roads receive the most complaints). Also, the state runs the risk of paying for injuries or illness due to unsafe or unhealthy park facilities.

Alaska's State Parks are a source of pride for Alaskans and provide for road accessible fishing, camping, hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, wildlife viewing, cultural and historic site visitation, and other outdoor recreational pursuits. Alaskans and our visitors participate in outdoor activities at a much higher level than the national average. Because most State Park facilities are on the road system, and therefore more accessible than the national park system, enormous demands are placed on the State Park facilities. State Parks receive over three times the visitation of the national park system, with most visitation coming from Alaskans. Poorly maintained park facilities not only reflect poorly on the state and its effort to increase tourism, but they can be a health and safety hazard to park users. Whether park users are from Alaska or Outside, local communities benefit greatly from the economic impact of these people buying groceries, gas, fishing tackle, souvenirs, restaurant meals, showers, guidebooks, fishing guides, and sightseeing tours. To continue attracting these visitors, facilities must be repaired and maintained and meet basic health and safety requirements. In addition, each project provides funding for local suppliers of materials needed for these repairs.

Project History:

The asset value of State Park facilities is over \$100 million. While Parks is able to do minor repairs and painting to annually maintain these facilities, major repairs require specific funding through the capital process. The last two fiscal years have only provided Parks with \$572.2 to repair health and safety problems on roads, cabins, water systems and toilets. Currently over \$42 million in repairs is needed for deferred maintenance in the park system. There is no alternative to repairing existing park facilities other than closing park units for lack of adequate facilities. Partnering with the private sector to make these repairs is done wherever possible. Volunteer labor is used for many repairs, such as to cabins, volunteer housing, and picnic shelters.

Specific Spending Detail:

Toilets \$35.0:

Many toilets in Alaska's state park system are old and broken. This CIP will repair toilets in Sitka, Ketchikan, Juneau, and Haines area state parks.

Buildings - \$63.0:

Heating systems are breaking, roofs are leaking, and floors are rotting in both public use cabins and in park offices across the state. Buildings in Mat-Su, Kenai, Dillingham, and Juneau will all receive attention that improves the safety of those working in around these facilities.

Worker Safety - \$62.0:

Employees of Alaska State Parks are working in unsafe conditions in Palmer and Kodiak. The Mat-Su District office does not provide a legal escape route in case of fire for its employees working in the basement (the safe place to count fees) and park staff & volunteers in Kodiak are now working in a shop area that has a leaking roof and unsafe storage for hazardous materials. Fuel storage at Shuyak Island needs to be upgraded for both worker safety and to protect against spills.

Trails - \$60.0:

Trails in Chugach State Park are overgrown and the tread in some cases is unsafe. More Alaskans hike trails in Chugach State Park than any other park in the state. This CIP is needed to keep Chugach's trails safe for the park user. An overgrown trail is unsafe as mountain bikers and runners don't have necessary sight lines to avoid collision and no one using the trail can see potentially dangerous wildlife like moose and bear. An irregular tread can lead to twisted ankles and falls.

Parks Design & Construction - \$30.0:

To facilitate this work, the Parks Design & Construction provides site planning, design, environmental work, and construction oversight.

Project Support:

State Park visitors, Alaska Travel Industry Alliance, Alaska Wilderness Recreation Tourism Association, State Park Advisory Boards, local Chambers of Commerce, recreational user groups, and highway travelers

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Project Opposition:

None known.